

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors.

Fig. 1 of the drawings has been amended to correct a numbering error. The fastener that attaches the handle 80 to the sampler was erroneously identified by the reference numeral "12", when it should have been identified by the numeral -82--, as seen from page 11, line 11 of the specification.

The amendment to independent claims 1, 18 and 26 adds to these claims the limitation that the plunger is manually moved, which the examiner apparently found to be a distinguishing feature of objected to, but allowable, claims 6-12, 22-25 and 29. It is therefore submitted that independent claims 1, 18 and 26, together with all of their respective dependent claims, are now in condition for allowance.

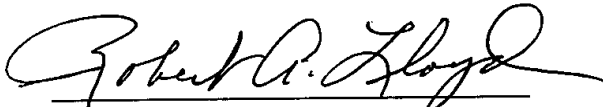
Of the new claims 30-35, independent claims 30 and 35 respectively correspond to original (prior to amendment) independent claims 1 and 26, except that new independent claims 30 and 35 also call for a stop to be moveable through a longitudinal slot with reciprocation of the sampler plunger, and for the stop to be moveable into and out of a circumferential slot when the plunger is in its parked position in order to lock and unlock the plunger against and for reciprocation. As use of such a stop and longitudinal and circumferential slots for locking and unlocking a plunger against and for reciprocation are not within the scope of the teachings of the references cited, it is

Application No. 10/084,966
Amendment Dated January 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 12, 2003

submitted that new independent claims 30 and 35, along with claims 31-34 that depend from claim 30, are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, and as all of the claims appear to be in condition for allowance, favorable reconsideration and early passage of the application to allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert A. Lloyd, Reg. No. 25,694

Pyle & Piontek
221 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 850
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 236-8123